

September 30, 1967

Dear Hal:

Let me put some current thoughts first before I get to your 9/26/67 note --
Just got into Fred Cook's FBI expose; think maybe I should have read it before the 1st WW; my ignorance of the origins of the Bureau and its evolution have proved a tremendous void in reading your works; I believe the significant difference in calibrating Cook's attack on the Hoover vacuum of silence vis-a-vis your own is that his ~~a~~ generalizations don't focus, yours do. Cook says Hoover's past eggs stink, but they're hatched and run away; you say he's still got a raunchy one tucked between his featherless buttocks, and he isn't about to let it fall out in public. Interesting that the Buchwald piece should arrive in your last note, eh?

Now, on your note: The manuscript will be pounced upon the instant it hits the post office drawer (in the case, of course, that it is not pre-pounced upon by the local NKVD); the Cook Book has some alarming mention~~ed~~ of this inherent liaison between the Bureau and the Postal links.) I'll send it back when I finish (registered) or whenever the Parallax books arrive. On second thought I'll keep it just to read the unedited portions.

On the ALFJE ENJ, LIMITED performance question: Please understand that that Prospectus is not meant as a guarantee to anyone for anything; the law prohibits this; it is, however, a statement of the corporate goals and estimates of projected costs; note that there is no mention anywhere of profit area; should ALFJE contract with you as your business management and legal vehicle, the terms and conditions would incorporate performance conditions protecting both our interests. Again, I seek to organize, not exploit your hard-earned income; ALFJE would share only it that expanded income factor it proposes to generate, not in any income from your past efforts. I cannot be any more literal.

Stan Mosk was Attorney General of California at the time of the assassination, I believe. From there he was appointed (by Gov. Brown) to the State Supreme Court, where he now sits. Mosk, Brown, Warren, and Kuchel are all the same croney bag, parties aside; they would lay down their ~~to~~ (oops) for each other.
Lives

Mosk is wholly unapproachable from any direction for me. I can say that he is an able jurist, albeit a bit too hackneyed liberal for me. He thinks reform comes from silicone shots.

My immaculate perception keeps telling me that far more influential people know the Warren Commission's ballgame is about to be forfeited than either of us now imagines; the severity of trepidation, however, keeps them abjectly silent; no one wants to open this can of worms, lest he be stoned about the head and shoulders unmercifully by a pack illiterate flagwavers, each bearing used Hoover-for-~~God~~ President buttons on their bibby overalls. Let it not be forgotten that some of these mutes have received "shrill" letters from you, as one critic calls your missals, and cannot say they have not heard from at least one clarion source. That Fullbright wouldst take on Viet Nam as the source when he full-well knows (or must suspect) otherwise is purely idiocy, ordinarily not his calling. In case I haven't espoused my admonition to those who would find our news (CBS/NBC) oh so sacrosanct: Don't ever think that there are those in positions of executive authority in our news vehicles that are horribly afraid that rock turning might ultimately find that last one face down with two protruding ears folding from under. The analogies are endless: House of cards; dominoes (oh?).

It is an irony that I have been approached by Metromedia to submit my resume and confer about taking over as their news director at a new TV property they've purchased here in San Francisco (Ch. #32). Approximately one year ago they wanted me to do the same thing for their Los Angeles TV station (KTIV), but our timetables ran afoul instead. I am enclosing my partial resume from American Broadcasting so that you might judge for yourself the credentials I sport; seems that I promised you these when Christ left!!!

Let me say candidly that I choose not to climb back into the shallowness of "conventional" news direction, unless it's on my own terms. (Remember me? J/ Edgar Christian?) The reason I fled ABC was because I felt shallowness was designed for kiddies backyard pools, not the minds of a so-called intelligent electorate. (You might ask why I left to go with Sam Yorty and I might -- would -- answer that the miserable lout was at least his own man and capable of humping his back when he wanted; I had more (belated) influence over Sam than his entire pack of Orange County locusts -- and we at least mortally crippled Booby Brown and his brown bagmen.) (That Reagan was his successor remains to be evaluated; that I was HIS momentary advisor only proves that I too need a partial lobotomy (sp).....!!!) (That Phil Battaglia, Jack Cooke's personal Counsel, has since left also remains inexplicable.) (So might these parenthesized remarks unless your mind is as retentive as your actions and words would indicate.)

Bowen still awaits further instructions from me; I'm plotting — waiting for your/Jolly Green's timetable in NO. KSL would be an ideal vehicle for literal proliferation of the actual details about the trial; Would you be interested in being Radio Service Corporation's "reporter" down there? This would include KSL and all its sister/satellite properties throughout the world (shortwave,). I have no idea whether or not they would be interested, but it sounds interesting as hell from this vantage point. (You say you once had a third cousin in the Bronx named Brigham? Well, how about Brig, period???!!!!)

All this silence from Starr and the New York publishing group puzzles me thoroughly; they have a stake in the progress, and certainly they must know you have been a bloody loner and must necessarily be kept apprised about day-to-day progress. Silence is sometimes golden, but it can also be deafening.

I'm sorry for raising the point again — but — Starr's messing with AP on other (related?) publishing matters just plain troubles me; granted, in this overall situation it is going to be difficult to separate normal affinities or casual affiliations; but BUSINESS is something else altogether. Remember my last remark about "prive". This law firm out here would grill the hell out of Starr if he were present. I don't mean to plant the seed of suspicion where it is not warranted, but Starr would have starved had he have made his living singularly from one Harold Weisberg. If he has, then he gets the first annual Harold Weisberg Award for Journalistic Insanity. We must talk about this when you get out here.

The more I think about New Orleans and Garrison's final charge, the more I am convinced that your presence is absolutely mandatory; I am cognizant that the publicizing of the PWW and NO books are required; but I also feel that Garrison will need your unique expertise moreso than that of any other individual; also, remember that Lane and his fellow parasites will be where you fail to tread — and right or wrong has not a damned thing to do with their actions. When you gotta go, you gotta go — and YOU gotta GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I'm enclosing a preliminary report to Counsel on the CBS bit; they've been looking over your text over the weekend, so will be conversant with my references. Please remember that this law firm is not in any way committed to doing anything for you, me, ALFIE ENI, or Genghis Khan until the ABA formalities are culminated.

This package ought to be fatter than the last; I'll (we'll) go bankrupt on postage costs along. My kindest to your little ole non-whine-maker.

Best Personal Regards,

Hardline John,